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Earned Not Endowed: What Do La Salle Collections Teach Us About Early Feminism and the Suffrage Movement?

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Miranda Clark-Binder & Heather Willever-Farr

Explorer Café, March 3, 2021



Suffrage Facts in Black and V.



Pennsylvania's 1915 Woman Suffrage Election Map
For Suffrage, 385,348 **Against Suffrage, 441,034**
 33 Counties White—34 Counties Black

Adverse vote against Suffrage only 55,686
 (Outside of Philadelphia, only 10,414)

This Map Shows
 That MEN of Pennsylvania, in large numbers, believe in
 GIVING WOMEN A "SQUARE DEAL."

In the 1915 Election
 The First Time the WOMAN SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT came before the
 Electors 385,348 MEN VOTED FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

**Pennsylvania's Men Proved that Eventually They Will Demand
 EQUALITY FOR THE WOMEN OF THEIR STATE REGARDLESS OF
 ANY INTEREST THAT OPPOSES THEM.**

**THIS MEANS A VOICE FOR WOMEN IN THE GOVERNMENT
 THAT GOVERNS THEM.**

**GIVE ONE WOMAN YOU KNOW THE RIGHT TO VOTE.
 DO NOT LET ANY MAN YOU KNOW DENY THIS RIGHT TO ANY
 WOMAN YOU KNOW.**

**MAKE YOUR COUNTY OR KEEP YOUR COUNTY WHITE.
 MEN:—GRANT WOMEN SUFFRAGE.—IT'S FAIR; IT'S SQUARE.**

Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association
 201 ARCADE BUILDING HARRISBURG, PA

Overview

- Suffrage chronology
- Women's Club Movement
- The Civic Club of Philadelphia
- Intersections with La Salle's Art Collections
- Racial and socio-economic makeup of the Civic Club
- Discussion (Padlet!)



Suffrage Chronology (US)



Seneca Falls Convention
1st women's rights convention

Suffragists petition Congress to end disenfranchisement based on gender

Women's Suffrage Amendment proposed

National Association of Colored Women formed



1848

1851



1866

1870

1878

1890

1896

1920



Sojourner Truth delivered her famous "Ain't I a Woman" speech

Fifteenth Amendment Ratified

National American Woman Suffrage Association formed

General Federation of Women's Clubs formed

Wyoming 1st state to allow women to vote

19th Amendment ratified

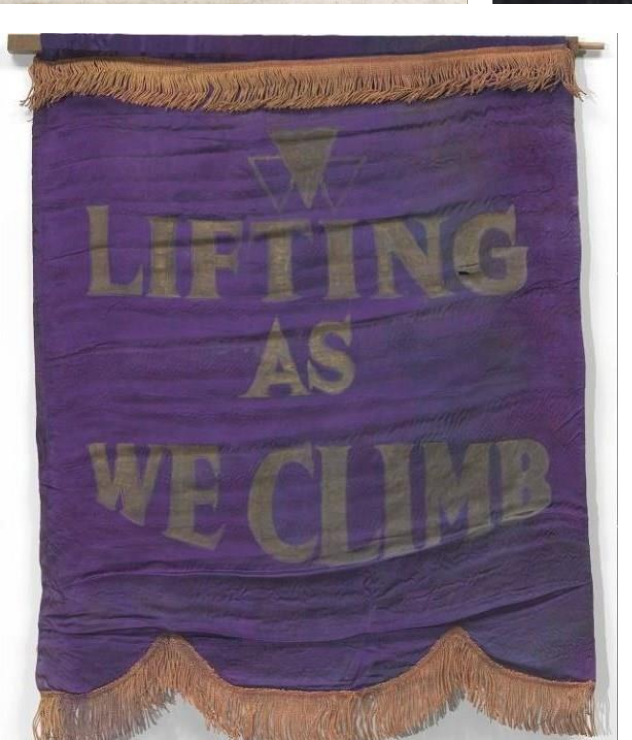




Women's Club Movement

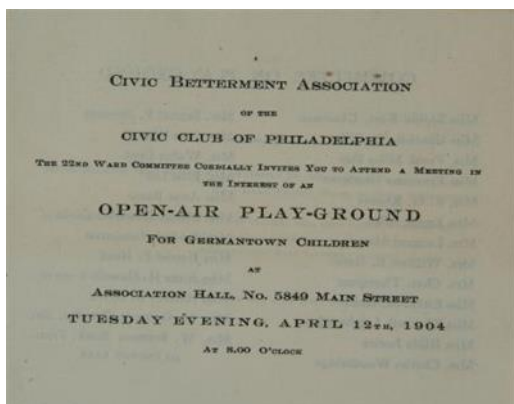
Women's clubs campaigned for:

- End to lynching
- Promoting art and music Food, sanitation, housing regulations
- Health clinics
- Food and milk pantries
- Child labor laws
- Settlement homes
- Public libraries
- Kindergartens and nursery schools
- School lunch programs
- Pay equity for female teachers
- Parks and playgrounds
- Conservation and environmental regulations
- Temperance





The Civic Club of Philadelphia



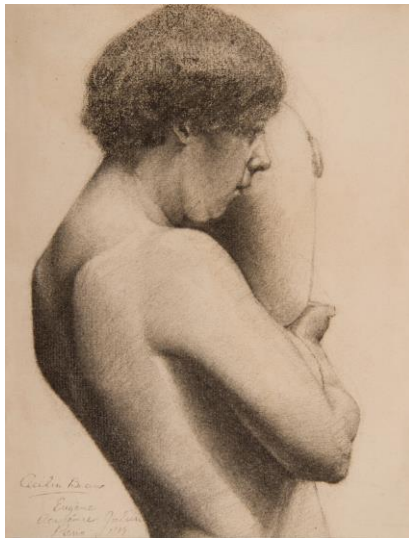
Civic Club's Art Department





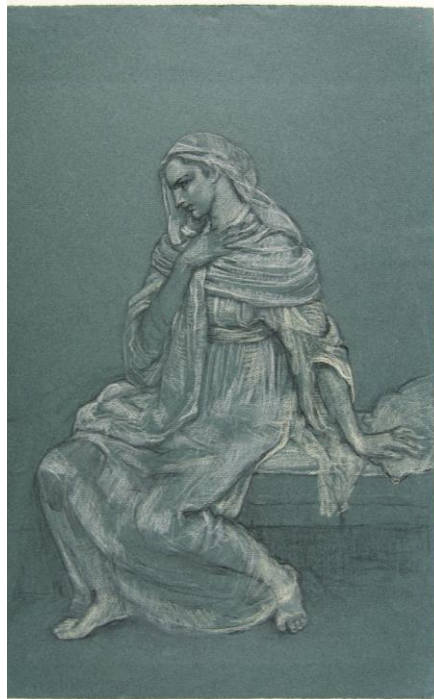
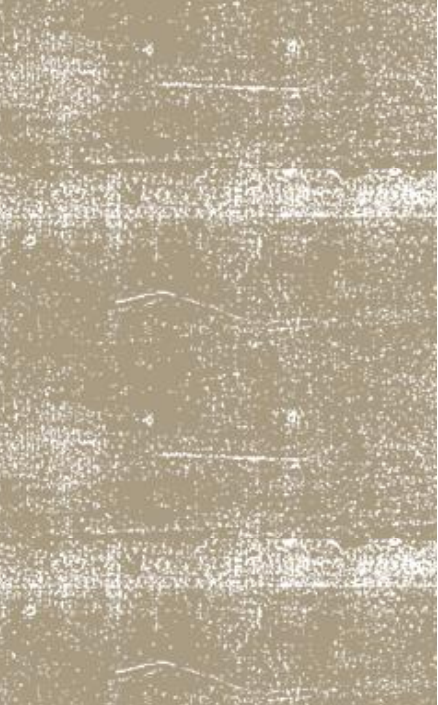
Cecilia Beaux (1855- 1942)

Portrait of Colonel Leslie Buswell,
<https://artcollection.lasalle.edu/objects-1/info/2685>



Young Man with an Urn,
<https://artcollection.lasalle.edu/objects-1/info/3112>



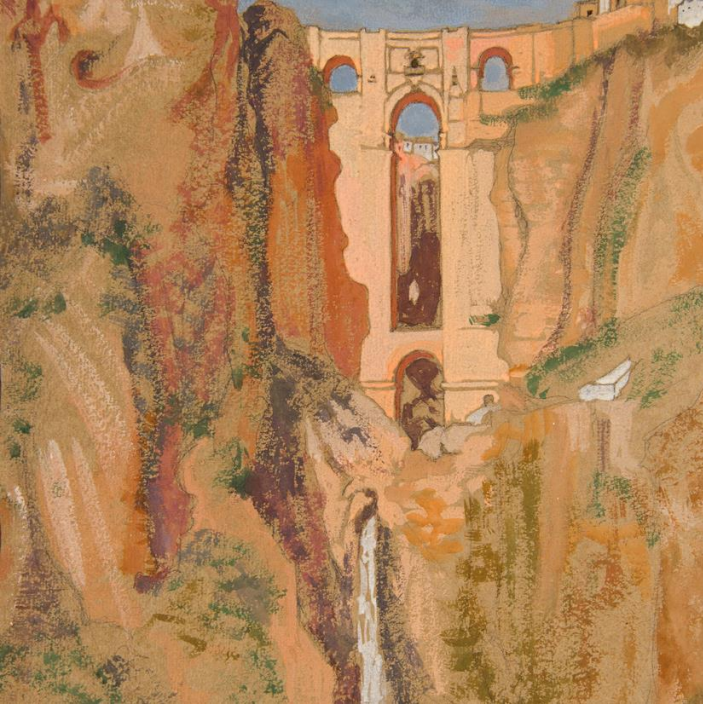


Violet Oakley (1874 – 1961)

Great Women of the Bible, "The Raising of Dorcas by Saint Peter", sketch,
<https://artcollection.lasalle.edu/objects-1/info/2348>

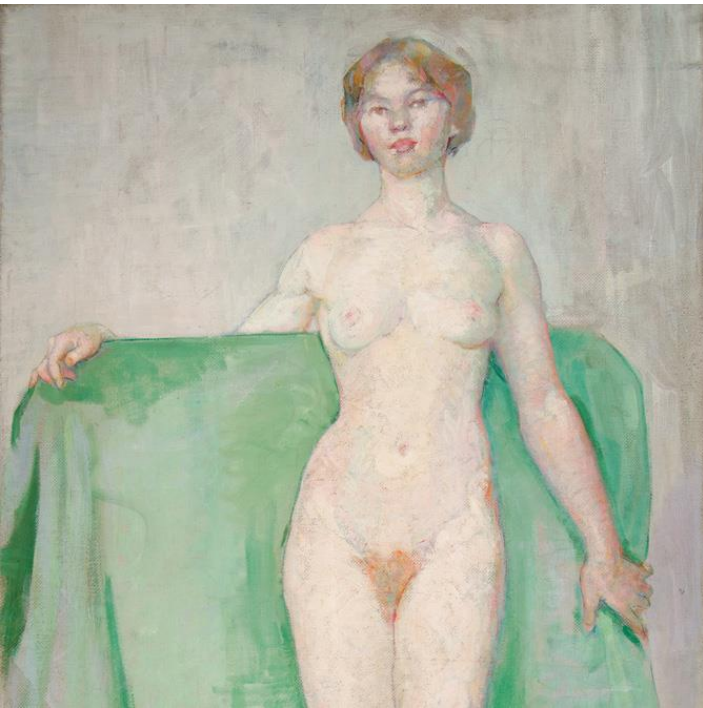
Great Women of the Bible, "The Raising of Dorcas by Saint Peter", final sketch,
<https://artcollection.lasalle.edu/objects-1/info/2402>





Edith Emerson (1888-1981)

The Bridge of Ronda (Spain),
<https://artcollection.lasalle.edu/objects-1/info/2025>



Standing Nude Woman,
<https://artcollection.lasalle.edu/objects-1/info/2691>



Edith Emerson

Recessional (Procession in an
Italian Church),

<https://artcollection.lasalle.edu/objects-1/info/1531>





To find out more about
Violet Oakley in
Philadelphia

- Violet Oakley murals at the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown:
<https://www.fpcgermantown.org/about/our-building/violet-oakley-murals/>
- Violet Oakley and Edith Emerson:
<https://rosenbach.org/blog/violet-oakley-and-edith-emerson-painters-partners-and-paragons-of-art-education/>
- Woodmere Exhibition about Violet Oakley:
<https://woodmereartmuseum.org/experience/exhibitions/a-grand-vision-violet-oakley-and-the-american-renaissance>
- Violet Oakley murals at the PA state capitol building:
<http://cpc.state.pa.us/history/artists/violet-oakley.cfm>
- Violet Oakley studio in Chestnut Hill:
<https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/wom/2008/violetoakleystudio.htm>

The Civic Club is a large association of women who, regardless of class, or race, of religious or political creed are banded together for the promotion in the community of a higher public spirit and for the raising of the general standards in every department of our municipal life.

They believe that every citizen is responsible for his share in any deficiency that may place our city below the highest level reached in other centers, and that it is a citizen's duty to freely place whatever special attainments he or she may possess at the service of the community. For purposes of classification and in order that each member may work where best fitted by nature or education, the Club ^{is} ~~has~~ ^{into} ~~its labors among~~ four departments-
^{each} special committees of which attend to special interests. There is

Civic Club Membership

Discussion

Question #1

Women's clubs often couched their work in terms of improving the lives of women and children—they were utilizing their 'domestic' knowledge to solve public problems. Would you label these women feminists? Why or why not?

Question #2

Civic Club leaders were mostly white and affluent. Disadvantaged community members appeared to play a limited role in shaping the work of the Club. How might the biases of the Club's leadership have influenced the Club's work in addressing the challenges Philadelphia faced? How effective are community solutions when not all impacted groups have a seat at the table?